JOSHUA

A STORY OF THE EXODUS.

By Georg Ebers, Author of "UARDA," "SERAPIS," Etc.

(NOW FIRST PUBLISHED.)



Miriam turned her steps homeward to retire to rest; but as she reached the threshold she staved her steps and listened once more, gazing northward whence Joshua must come. Nothing was to be heard but the tramp of a watchman and the voice of Hur as he went the rounds of the camp with a company of armed men. He, too, had found it impossible to rest

The night was mild and bright with stars, the hour meet for silent dreaming under the evenmore. Her seat was vacant under the ancient tree, so, with a bowed head, she made her way to the favorite spot which on the morrow she must quit forever. But she had not reached the bench when she suddenly stopped, raised her head, and pressed her hand to her panting bosom. She had heard the tramp of hoofs, she was sure of it, and the sound came from the north. Were the chariots of Pharaoh hurrying down to fall upon the Hebrew camp? Should she shout to wake the men-st-arms? Or could it indeed be he whom she so passionately longed for? Yes, yes. It was the step of a single horse, and it must be some new arrival, for there was a stir among the tents, and clapping of hands and shouts of eager talking came nearer and nearer as the horse-

man approached.

It was Joshua, she felt certain.

That he should have ridden forth through the night and torn asunder the ties which bound him to Pharach and his brethren in arms was a proof of his obedience, Love had steeled his will and lent speed to his steed. and the thanks which love alone can give, the reward which love alone can bestow. should no longer be withheld from him. He hould learn in her arms that, though he had given up much, it was to earn something aweeter and fairer. She felt as though the wight about her was as bright as noonday, making straight for Aminadab's dwelling. By that she knew that it was her call that had brought him to seek her before going to his father, who had found a lodging in the empty, roomy house belonging to his grand-

Joshua would gladly have flown to her side as fast as his horse could carry him, but it was not safe to ride at too brisk a pace through the camp. Oh, how long the min-utes seemed till at last she saw the horseman, till he leaped from the saddle, and his companion flung the reins to another man who came behind!

It was, indeed, Joshua. But his comrade at the sight-was Hur, the very man who a few hours since had asked her to be his wife. There they stood, side by side in the starlight, the two men her suitors, their figures lighted up by the blazing pine torches which were still burning by the carts and litters where they stood ready for the next morn-

ing's march.
The elder Hebrew, a splendid man, much taller than the younger and no less strongly-built warrior, and the lord of many held his head no less high than the Egyptian hero. Both spoke with grave debut her lover's voice was the deeper and fuller. Now they were so close to her that she could hear what they were say-

had gone forth to reconnoiter, and Joshua expressed his regret, as he had a matter of imortance to discuss with him. In that case he would have to set forth

with them at daybreak, Hur observed, for Moses thought to meet the people on the way. Then he pointed to the house of Miriam's protector, Aminadab, which lay in total darkness, unbroken by a single twink-ling light, and desired Joshus to come with im and spend the remainder of the night under his roof, for no doubt he would fain this. Miriam saw, her friend besitated and oked inquiringly up at the women's rooms and the roof, and then, knowing whom he impulse of her heart, she went forward from under the shadow of the sycamore and warmly bid Joshua welcome. He, too, scorned to conceal the joy of his heart, and Hur, standing by, saw the reunited pair clasp hands, at first in silence and then with

eager words of greeting. Miriam, and Joshua replied with glad emo-tion: "That you might easily know, O phetess, for one of the voices that hid me her was your own." Then he added mage of the greatest importance to him, to us and to the people. I find all made ready for departing, and I should be sorry if your venerable protectors were roused from their rest and hurried forward to a perileus ad-

You mean-" asked Hur, and he came

persists in leading the multitude forth east-ward, there will be much uscless bloodshed to-morrow, for I heard at Tsnis that the garrisons of Etham have orders not to let a single man pass, much less this countless multitude, whose numbers dismayed me as I rode through the camp. I know Apou, who commands the place, and the legions who serve under him. There will be a fear-ful and fruitless butchery among our unarmed and undistiplined tribes—in short I must speak strongly to Moses, and immediately, to avert the worst, before it is too "We have not failed to fear all that you

can warn us of," replied Hur, "and it is expressly to avert it that Moses has set forth on a perilous journey."
"Whither?" asked Joshua. "That is the secret of the leaders of the

"No doubt, and I am ready to lead you to him. If he thinks fit to inform you-" 'If that is contrary to his duty he will be

silent. Who leads the marching hosts to-"You?" cried Joshus in surprise, and the other quietly replied:
"You are amazed that a shepherd should

be so bold as to lead an army, but the Lord God of Hosts, in whom we put our trust, is indeed our captain, and I look for His guid-

'It is well," replied Joshua, "but I too believe that the God of our fathers, who called me hither by the voice of Miriam, has intrusted me with a measage of great im-

"You have been told that till to-morrow, or even till the day after, he is beyond our reach, even mine. Will you meanwhile speak with Asron?"

"Is he in the camp?"
"No; but we look for his return before the departing of the people—that is to say, in a "Has he the right of deciding questions of importance in the absence of Moses?"
"No; he only declares to the people in eloquent words that which his great brother

At this the disappointed warrior gazed thoughtfully on the ground, but after a moment's reflection he eagerly went on: "It is to Moses that the Lord our God declares His will; but to you, too; his noble, virgin sister, to you, too, the Most High reveals

"Oh, Joshua," the Iprophetess broke in, lifting her hands to him with an imploring and deprecating gesture; but the Captain paid no heed to her interruption, and went on in an earnest tone: The Lord God charged you to call me, His servant, back to His people. He commanded you to give me the name I am to bear instead of that given me by my father and mother, and which I have borne in honor for 30 years. In obedience to your bidding I have cast from me all that could make me great among men. It was when I was in the way to face death in Egypt, with my God and your image in my heart, that the message came to me which I am here to deliver, upon me by the Most High, I am constrained to deliver it to the leader of the nation; so, as I can-not find Moses, I can do no better



Meeting of Joshua and Mirian

than to deliver it to you, who, next to your brother, dwells nearest to God. I pray you now to hear me; but the words I have to speak are not yet ripe for any third hearer. At this Hur drew himself up. Breaking in on Joshua's speech he asked Miriam whether it was her desire to hear what the son of Nun should say without witnesses, and she replied in a low voice, "Yes."

and she replied in a low voice, "Yea."

Hur turned to the warrior and said, with cold pride: "I believe that Miriam knows the will of the Lord, and likewise her brother's, and that she is aware of what beseems a woman of Israel. If I am not mistaken it was under this very tree that your own father, the venerable Nun, repeated to my son Uri the only reply which Moses will give to the bearer of such message as yours." "Do you know it, then?" asked the sol-Joshus had been riding southward for message as yours.

dier, sternly.
"No," replied the other, "but I guess its "No," He stooped with youthful agility, raised two large stones so that they supported each other, rolled a few nes into a heap around them, and then, in breathless eagerness, he spoke as

"This heap shall be a witness between me and thee, like the heap of Mizpah which Laban and Jacob made when Laban called upon the Lord to watch between him and Isrsel; so do I now, and I show thee this heap that thou mayest remember it when we are absent one from another. I lay my hand on this heap of stones, and I declare that I, Hur, the son of Caleb and Ephratah, but my trust in none other but only in the Lord, the God of our fathers, and am ready to do His biding by which He calleth us out of the land of Pharach to the land which He has promised us. And thou, Joshua, the son of Nun, do I ask, and the Lord our God heareth thee: Dost thou look for any help other than that of the God of Abraham, who chose thy nation to be His own people? Moreover, thou shalt answer and say whether henceforth thou wilt hold the Egyptians who oppressed us, and out of whose hand the Lord our God hath promised to redeem us, as the foes forever of thy God

and thy people?"

There was a dark look in the warrior's bearded face, and he was inclined to kick down the heap of stones and dismiss the overbold questioner with a wrathful reply; but Miriam had laid her hand on the top of the heap, and, seizing his right hand, she

God and Lord who is our witness!"

Joshua was able to control his wrath, and

pressing the maiden's hand as he held it, he answered with due solemnity: "He asks me, but I cannot answer him; for 'yea' and 'nay' say little in this case. Yet I call God to witness on my part, and here by this heap of stones you, Miriam, shall hear what I have in my mind and wherefore I am come. And thou, Hur, see here! Like thee I lay my hand on the heap and testify that I, Joshua, the son of Nun, put my trust in none other but only in the Lord God of our fathers. He shall stand between thee and is His way or the way of an erring man. it to Moses and to this noble maiden. That I swear with an oath, and to that God be my

Hur had listened eagerly, and now, per-suaded by the gravity of Joshua's speech,

"The Lord our God hear mine oath! And I, too, by this heap, will take an oath! If the hour should come when, remembering this heap, though shalt give the testimony which thou hast refused me, no wrath henceforth shall come between us; and if it be the will of the Lord I will deliver into

under the sycamore but the young girl's low sobbing and the impatient step of the war-

tween him and the woman he loved.

He had learned from Hur's speech that Moses and his own father had each, severally, rejected all mediation; and yet to him the promises he was empowered to make seemed a grace and gift from Heaven. As yet none of his nation had heard them, and if Moses were the man he believed him, the Lord must of a surety open his even and the Lord must of a surety open his eyes and show him that he had chosen Joshua to guide the people to a happier future; nor did he doubt that he could easily win over his father, Nua. It was in full conviction that he had again sworn that it was indeed the Most High who had shown him this way; and after thinking all this over, as Mirism at length rose, he went toward her with renewed hope. The love in his heart prompted him to clasp her in his arms; but she drew back, and her voice, usually so pure and full, sounded harsh and husky as she asked him wherefore he had tarried so long, and what it was that he purposed to

As she knelt under the sycamore she had As she knelt under the sycamore she had not merely been praying and struggling for composure; she had looked into her soul. She loved Joshua, but her heart misgave her that he had some proposal to make such as Uri's, and old Nun's wrathful words rang in her ears louder than ever. Her fear lest her lover had gone astray into an eavil way and Huy's startling way. evil way, and Hur's startling proceedings, had lulled the surges of her passion; and her spirit, brought back to calmer reflection, now craved above all else to know what could have so long detained him whom she had sent for in the name of the Lord, and wherefore he had come alone, without Ephraim. The clear sky, glorious with stars, instead of looking down on the bliss of a pair of reunited lovers, was witness only to the anxious questionings of a terri-fied woman and the impatient answers of a hot-spirited and bitterly-disappointed man. He began by urging his love, and that he had come to make her his wife, but she, though she suffered him to hold her hand, implored him to postpone his wooing and to tell her first all she wanted to know.

On his way hither he had heard news of Ephraim from a fellow-soldier from Tanis. He was therefore able to tell her that he had gone into the town in disobedience to orders, sick and weary as he was, and moved, it would seem, by curiosity, and that he had found care and shelter under a friendly roof. This, however, did not comfort Miriam, who blamed herself as she thought of the inexperienced and fatherless lad, who had grown up under her own eyes, and whom she herself had sent forth among strangers, as a guest under an Egyptian's roof. However, Joshua assured her that he would take upon himself to bring the boy back to his people, and when she still was not satisfied he saked her whether he had indeed lost all her trust and love. But she, instead of giving him a word of comfort, began to question him further, desiring to know what had delayed his coming, so he was forced to tell his tale, though greatly disturbed and cut to the heart, beginning in fact with the end of his

while she listened to him, leaning against the trunk of the sycamore, he, distraught by love and impatience, paced up and down, or else, hardly able to control himself, stood close to her, face to face. At this moment nothing seemed to him worthy to be clothed in speech but the passion and the hopes which filled his being. Had he been convinced that her heart was estranged from him he would have fled from the camp as soon as he had unburdened his soul to his father, and have ridden away into the unknown in search of Moses. All he cared for was to win Miriam and to keep clear of dishonor; and important as the events and hopes of the last few days had been, he answered her questions hastily, and as though the matters involved were but a light thing. He began his tale in broken sentences, and the oftener she interrupted him the more impatient he became and the deeper the frown

he perceived a large crowd of men marching on in front of him. At first he had taken them to be the rear guard of the fugi



Abminadab's House,

tive Hebrews, and he had hastened hi horse's pace. But before he came up with leaving their carts and beasts of burden in shricks and shouts of warning, telling him that the troop in front were the multitude of lepers. And their warning was but too well justified, for the first who met him with the heart-breaking cry, "Unclean! un-clean!" bore the tokens of those who were a prey to the terrible disease, their dull eye staring at him from faces devoid of eye brows and covered with the white, scurfy dust peculiar to leprosy.

Joshua presently recognized one and another of them, among them here and there an Egyptian priest with shaven head, and Hebrew men and women. He questioned them with the calm severity of a warrior chief, and learned that they had warrior chief, and learned that they had come from the quarries opposite Memphis, their place of exile on the eastern shore of the Nile. Certain Hebrews among them had heard that their people had fled from Egypt to seek a land which the Lord had promised them. On this, many had determined to put their trust in the mighty God of their fathers and to follow the God of their fathers and to follow the wandering tribes; and the Egyptian priests even, whose affliction had east in their lot with the Hebrews, had set forth with them, fixing on Succeth as the goal of their wandering, whither, as they heard, Moses was the first to lead the people. But every one who might have told them the road had fied at their approach. Thus they had cope to far to be the will of the Lord I will deliver into the hand the leadership, for thou is many process. Thus they had gone too for to the Lord I will have I will be a long to the Lord I will have I will be a long to the Lord I will have I will be a long to the Lord I will have I will be a long to the Lord I will have I will be a long to the Lord I will be a long to the L approach. Thus they had gone too far approach. Thus they had gone too far to the northward, even almost as far as the fortress of Tabnae. It was at a mile from that place that Joshua had overtaken them, and had counseled their leaders to return forthwith and not to bring misfortune on the host of their brethren. During their parley, a company of Egyptian soldiers had come out from the citied to meet the learn

The cause of this detention was sadden rior, who, while struggling for composure himself, did not venture to address her. He could not fully understand what this was that had suddenly come like a mountain between him and the woman he loved.

He had learned from Hur's speech that Moses and his own father had each, severally, rejected all mediation; and yet to

Never had his heart been higher with glad anticipation than as he rode on through the night, each step bringing him nearer to his father and his beloved, and at his journey's end, instead of the highest bliss, naught had he found till now but the most the highest bliss, naught had he found till now but the most the had related his meeting with the lepers he had a clustered and related his meeting with the lepers he had a clustered to the head the same time.

he had related his meeting with the seperal briefly and reluctantly, although he had done, as he believed, what was best for these hapless folk. Any one of his fellow-soldiers would have had a word of praise for him, but she, whose approbation was dearer to him than all else, pointed, as he ended, to a certain spot in the camp, saying mountfully. mournfully:
"They are of our blood; our God is their

God. The lepers of Zoan, Phakos and Phibeseth followed the rest at a reasonable distance, and their tents are pitched outside the camp, Those of Succoth likewisethe camp. Those of Succoth likewise— they are not many—are to journey with them, and when the Lord promised the people, the land for which they longed it was to great and small and poor alike, and, of a surety, to those poor wretches who now are left in the land of the enemy. Would you not have done better to divide those of our race from the Egyptians and bring them hither?"

At this the soldier's manly pride rebelled, and his reply was grave and stera:
"In war a man learns to sacrifice hundreds that he may save thousands. Even the shepherd removes the rotten sheep to save the flock." "Very true," replied the girl eagerly.

"So women think!" retorted Joshua. "But the counsels of compassion which move them must not be suffered to weigh too heav-

"for the shepherd is but a man, who knows no remedy against the evil. But the Lord who hath called all His people will not suf-

fer them to come to harm through obedi-



low the dictates of your heart, as indeed is most fitting, so long as you do not forget what bessems you and your sex." Miriam's cheeks flushed crimson, for she

elt the stab that was hidden in this speech with a double pang, since it was dealt by Joshua. How much had she this day been forced to renounce for her sex's sake! And how she was to be made to feel that she was

set her in her place—her, who let herself second to no man in gifts and in spirit.

But he, too, had been wounded in his pride, and her demeanor warned him that this hour would decide whether in their future union he or she should get the mastery. He stood up in front of her in all his pride and high determination—never, inpride and high determination—never, and deed, had she thought him so manly or so desirable. Yet the instinct to fight for her you know.

"Wrath still flashed from his sparkling "Wrath still flashed from his sparkling to me to resemble the some few hours, in high spirits and full of injured womanly dignity was stronger than hiersoming hopes, when shortly before dusk who broke the painful silence which had followed his words of reproof. With a the exertion of her utmost power of will, she began:

"But we are both forgetting what keeps us here at this hour of the night. You were to reveal to me what brought you hither, and to hear from my lips the judgment of the Lord-not that of Miriam, the foolish woman."
"I had hoped to hear the voice of the

maiden in whose love I trusted," he gloomily replied. 'You shall hear it," she said, taking her hand from off the heap of stones. "But it may befall that I cannot consent to the judgment of the man whose power and wisdom are so far greater than mine, and you

have taught me that you cannot brook a woman's contradiction-not even mine."
"Miriam!" he exclaimed, reproachfully, but she went on more vehemently:
"I have felt it deeply; and as it would be the greatest sorrow of my life to lose your heart, you must understand me fully before

you call upon me to pronounce judgment." 'But first hear my message.' "No-no!" she eagerly replied. "The answer now would die on my lips. First let me tell you of the woman who, though she has a loving heart, knows something which she holds far above love. You smile? And you have a right to smile till you know that which I will reveal to you."
"Speak, then!" he broke in, in a tone which betrayed how hard he felt it to keep

"Thanks for that," she said, warmly Then, leaning against the tree trunk, while he sat down on the bench and now looked into her face and now on the ground, she

"I have left childhood behind me, aye, and my youth will soon be a thing of the past. While I was still but a little child I was not very different from other girls. I played with them, and although my mother taught me to pray to the God of our fathers, still I was well content to hear what other children would tell me of Isis. As often as I could I, would steal into her temple, buy spices and strip my little garden for her; would pour oil on her altar and offer her flowers. I was taller and stronger than many maidens of my age, and the daughter of Amram to boot, so that the others were ready enough to obey me and do all I proposed. When I was 8 years old we moved hither from Zoan. Before I had found a playfellow here you came to stay in the house of Gamaliel, your sister's hus-band, to be healed of a wound from a time, when you, a young man, made a com-rade of the little girl? I fetched you all you needed; I chattered to you of all I knew, and you told me tales of bloody fights and victory and described the splen-did armor and the horses and chariots of

whom our Moses, her pride and joy, had risen to such high honor.

"Thus I came to be 15 years old and lived happily with the rest. In the evening, when the herdsmen came home, I sat round the fire with the young ones, and it pleased me when the sons of the great owners preferred me above the others and paid court to me; but I rejected them all, even the Egyptian captain who commanded the guard in charge of the storehouse, for I always thought of you the companion of my childin charge of the atorehouse, for I always thought of you, the companion of my child-hood. The best I had to give would not have seemed too much for a magic spell, when at high festivals I danced and sang to the tambourine, and the loudest praise was always for me. Whenever I sang before others I thought of you, and as I did so I poured out all that filled my heart as a lark might, so that my song was to you and not

might, so that my song was to you and not to the praise of the Most High, to whom it was dedicated." was dedicated."
At this a fresh glow of passion possessed the man to whom his beloved confessed such gladdening truth. He sprang up and held out his arms to her, but she forbade him with stern severity, that she herself might remain mistress of the longing which threatened to be too much for her. ened to be too much for her.

Her deep voice had a different ring in it

as she went on, at first quickly and softly, but presently louder and more impressively "And so I came to be 18, and I could endure Succoth no longer. . An unutterable yearning, not for you only, came over my soul. Things that had formerly brought me joy now seemed empty, and the monotony of life here, in this remote frontier town, among flocks and herdsmen, seemed to me

of life here, in this remote frontier town, among flocks and herdsmen, seemed to me dreary and wretched.

"Eleazar, Aaron's son, had taught me to read, and brought me books full of tales which could never have been true, but which nevertheless stirred my heart. Many of them contained praises of the gods and ardent songs, such as lovers sing one to another. These took deep hold on me, and when I was alone in the evening or at midday, when all was still and the shepherds and herdsmen were away at pasture, I would rehearse these songs or invent new, mostly hymns in praise of the Divinity, in honor of Amon, with his ram's head, or of Isis, with the head of a cow; but often, too, of the Almighty Lord who revealed Himself to Abraham, and of whom my mother spoke more often as she grew older. And this was what I loved best—to think in allence of such songs of praise, and wait for visions in which I saw God's greatness and glory, or fair angels and hideous demons. From a merry child I had become a pensive maiden who let her life go as it might. There was no one to warn or hinder me; my parents were now dead and I lived alone with my Aunt Rachel, a misery to myself and no joy to snyone else. Aaron, my eldest brother, had gone to dwell with his father-in-law, Aminadab, for the old home of Amram, his inheritance, was too small for him, and he had bestowedlit on me. My

father-in-law. Aminadab, for the old home of Amram, his inheritance, was too small for him, and he had bestowedlit on me. My companions even avoided me, for all gladness had departed from me, and I looked down upon them in sinful scorn because I could compose songs and see more in my visions than ever they saw.

"Now I was 19, and on the eve of my birthday, which no one remembered save birthday, which no one remembered save Milcah, Eleazar's daughter, the Lord for the first time gave me a message. He appeared in the form of an angel and bid me

peared in the form of an angel and bid me set the house in order, for a guest was on the way whom I loved greatly.

"It was very early in the morning and I sat under this tree; so I went into the house and with old Rachel's help I set the house in order and made ready a bed, and prepared a meal with wine and all that we welcome a guest withal. But noon came, and how she was to be made to feel that she was not his equal, that she was but a woman. In the presence of the heap of stones which Hur had built up, and on which her hand at this moment rested, he had appealed to her judgment as though she were one of the leaders of the people; and now he roughly set her in her place—her, who felt herself second to no man in gifts and in spirit.

But he, too, had been wounded in his pride, and her demeanor warned him that this how would decide whether in their the how would decide whether in their this how would decide whether in their the second to no man in gifts and in spirit.

The dogs shrank from him whining, but I knew him for my brother Moses.

knew him for my brother Moses.
"Our meeting again after such a long time brought me more fear than pleasure, for Moses was fleeing from his pursuers be-cause he had slain the overseer. But this

engraved on my mind as with a hammer and chisel. He remained three times seven days and nights under my roof, and since I was alone with him and deaf Rachel-for



His Words. tween us, and he taught me to know Him who is the God of our fathers. I listened to his burning words with fear and trembling, and his weighty speech fell, as it seemed to me, like rocks upon my breast when he im-

and his weighty speech fell, as it seemed to me, like rocks upon my breast when he impressed on me what the Lord God expected of me, or when he described the wrath and the greatness of Him whom no mind can comprehend, and whose name nome may utter. Yes, when he spoke of Him and of the Egyptian gods, it appeared as though the God of Israel stood forth like a giant whose brow touched the heavens, while the other gods all crouched at his feet in the dust like whimpering hounds.

"He also taught me that we alone, and no others, were the Lord's chosen people. Now, for the first time, I was filled with pride that I was a scion of Abraham and that every Hebrew was my brother and every daughter of Israel my sister. Now, too, I understood how cruelly those of my own kindred had been tortured and oppressed. I had hitherto been blind to the anguish of my people, but Moses opened my eyes and sowed the seeds of hatred in my heart—a great hatred of the tyrants of my brethren; and from that hatred grew love for the oppressed. I vowed that I would cling to my brother and wait on the voice of the Lord, and, behold! He did not tarry; the voice of Jehoyah spoke to me as with tongues.

"About that time old Rachel died, and by

when you bid me set my hopes on you and remember you? Did the hatred which Moses implanted in your heart exclude all else, even love?"

"Even love?" cried Miriam, raising her tearful eyes to his face. "Oh, no! How could I ever forget that time when Moses came from the desert to redeem the people from bondage by the command of the Lord -it was three mouths after your departing from that day I have lost all count of years and months, days and nights."

-from that day I have lost all count of years and months, days and nights."

"And you will forget this night?" asked Joshus, bitterly.

"Nay, not so," said Miriam, looking beseehingly in his face. "The love which grew up in the child's heart and did not fade in the girl's can never die—" Here she suddenly broke off, raised her hands and eyes to heaven as if wrapt in cestacy, and crised aloud: "Thou art nigh to me, great God Almighty, and canst read my heart! Thou khowest wherefore Miriam counts no more by days and years, and asks only to be Thy handmaid until Thou hast granted to her people, who is this man's people, that which Thou hast promised!"

While the maiden was uttering this prayer, which came from the very bottom of her heart, a light breeze had sprung up, the herald of dawn, and the thick, lealy crown of the sycamore tree whispered above her head. Joshua devoured her tall, majestic figure with his eyes as she stood half lighted and half shrouded in the doubtful gleam of dawn, for the things he saw and heard seemed to him as a mirsele. The tidings of great joy to which she looked forward for her people, and which must be accomplished before she would allow herself to follow the desires of her heart, he believed himself to be the bearer of in the name of the Lord. Carried away by the high flight of her spirit, he hastened to her side, seized her hand and cried with hopeful excitement:

"The hour has come when you may once

ment:

"The hour has come when you may onee more tell day from night and hearken to the wishes of your heart. For I, Joshua, no more Hosea, came at the message of the Lord, and the message I bear brings new happiness to the people whom I will learn to love as you love them, and, if it be the will of the Most High, a new and better land."

Miriam's eyes flashed with gladness, Carried away by thankful joy she cried:
"Are you, then, come to lead us to the land Jehovah hath promised us? Oh, Lord, how great are Thy mercies! He—he comes as Thy messenger."
"Yea, he comes; he is here!" cried



Joshua, rapturously, and she did not pre-vent him as he clasped her to his breast. With a thrill of joy she returned his ardent

CHAATER XVI. Frightened at her own weakness, Miriam presently freed herself from her lover's arms, but she was ready to listen with eager gladness to his tale of a fresh mercy vouch-

found entire faith, and in obedience to the
God of his nation and to his father's appeal
had gone to the palace, facing the risk of
rocky ledge upon which, at low tide, the

for Miriam, who at first had listened to him with anxious ears and flashing eyes, had heard him as he proceeded, with a more and more anxious and troubled mien. And when he spoke of his hope that they might together do much for their people, she drew away lier hand, gazed with terror into his handsome face glowing with glad excitement, and then cast down her eyes as if striving for self-control.

Unsuspicious of what had moved her thus, he went closer to her. He deemed that it was maidenly shyness that held her silent at having yielded a first favor to the man she loved. But when she shook her head disapprovingly at his last words, announcing his commission as God's messenger, he was almost beside himself with cruel disappointment, and exclaimed vehemently:

almost beside himself with cruel disappointment, and exclaimed vehemently:

"Then do you believe that the Lord hath defended me, as by a miraele, against the wrath of the mighty, and give me grace to win for His people, from the hand of the great King, such boons as never before did the strong vouchsale to the weak, only to trifle with the happy trustfulness of a man whom He Himself called to serve Him?"

At this she interrupted him in a woful voice, with difficulty restraining her tears:

"The strong to the weak! If this is your thought you force me to ask you in your own father's words: 'Who, then, is the mightier, the Lord our God or that poor creature on the throne, whose first born has perished at a sign from the Most High as grass is out down and withered?' Oh, Hosea,

"Nay, Joshua," he wildly exclaimed,
"Do you refuse me the name which your
God has bestowed on me? I trusted in His
aid when I entered the palace of the great

for what have my people ever done for mo?
But above all, that I might dwell there with you, whom I love, and with my old father; and you, whose cold heart knows not love, with my kiss on your lips, you reject the boon I offer out of hatred for the hand that has bestowed it on ms. All your thoughts and deeds have become as those of a man, and all that other women prize most highly you spurn from you with your foot!"

At this Miriam could been no more. She

At this Miriam could bear no more. She

At this Miriam could bear no more. She clasped her hands over her quivering face, sobbing bitterly.

By this time the sleeping tribes were awakening in the growing dawn. Serving men and women came forth from the houses of Aminsdab and Nahshon. All, as they woke to a new day, made their way to the well or the drinking troughs, but she heeded them not.

How her heart had leaped and rejoiced when her lover had declared to her that he had come to lead them to the land which the Lord had promised to His people. She had rested so gladly on his bosom, to know for a moment that highest bliss, but how soon had it been turned to disappointment! While the morning breeze had rustled through the thick follage of the sycamore, and while Joshua was telling her of Pharaoh's promises to the people it had seemed to her that the voice of God in His wrath was murmuring in the tree tops,

Pharsoh's promises to the people it had seemed to her that the voice of God in His wrath was murmuring in the tree tops, or that she heard once more the angry speech of old Nun. He had stormed at Urilike thunder and lightning, and wherein did Joshua's proposal differ from Uri's?

The people, as she had heard from Moses himself, were lost if they failed in truth to their God and yielded to Pharsch's enticements. To ally herself with a man who had come to undo all for which her brothers and his own father had lived and struggled would be base treason. And yet she loved Joshua, and instead of repulsing him harshly, how willingly, ah, how gladly, would she again have lain on the heart which, as she knew, longed for her so ardently.

But the murmur in the boughs still went on. She could fancy it was echoing Aaron's words of warning, and she vowed to remain true, strong as the impulse was that drew her to her lover. The whispering in the tree was of a surety the voice of God, who had chosen her to be His handmaid. When Joshua had declared in his passionate excitement that the desire to possess her was what had prompted him to action on behalf of the people who to him were as indifferent as to her they were dear, she had suddenly felt her heart stand still and she dould not forbear sobbing in her mental anguish.

Heedless of Joshua or the awakening

anguisb.

Heedless of Joshus or the awakening multitude, she flung herself again at the foot of the sycamore, with arms upraised to heaven, staring wide-eyed at the boughs, as though expecting some fresh revelation. The morning air sighed among the leaves, and suddenly it seemed as though a bright radiance shone, not only in her somi, but all about her, as always happened when a vision was granted to her prophetic eye. And in the midst of the light, behold a figure, whose aspect terrified her while his name was whispered by every trembling leaf; and the name was not Joshua, but that of another whom her heart could not desire. He stood in the blaze of glory before her mind's eye, a tall, noble form, and with a solemn gesture, laid his hand on the heap of stones he had made.

[To be Continued.] [To be Continued.]

BABY SEALS AT PLAY.

Cute Little Pets Which Have Been Taught Many Interesting Tricks. November Wide Awake.

I made the other day a call on a unique household. My entertainers were seven young seals, recently exptured. I believe they are to be trained, but at present they gladness to his tale of a fresh mercy vouchsafed by the Most High and his brief account of all he had done and felt since he
had received her call.

First he described how terribly he had
been divided in his mind; how then he nad
found entire faith, and in obedience to the

had gone to the palace, tacing the risk of imprisonment or death, to be released of his oath. Next he told her how graciously the mourning sovereigns had received him, and how finally he had taken upon himself the office of appealing to the leader of his people and persuading him to take the Hebrews only a short way into the desert, and then bring them home again to Egypt, where a new and splendid province should be granted them on the west of the Nile. Hence forth no Egyptian overseer should oppress them; their own elders should be permitted to rule them, and a man of their own choosing should govern them.

To conclude, he observed that he himself was minded to become the captain of the Hebrew fighting men, and also to mediate and smooth matters between them and the Egyptians whenever it might seem needful. Happily united to her in that new home, he would extend his care to the humblest of his brethren. On his way hither he had felt as though, after a furious fight, the blasts of the trumpets proclaimed victory. And, indeed, he had a right to believe himself as messenger and ambassador from the Lord.

Here, however, he interrupted himself, for Miriam, who at first had listened to him with anxious ears and flashing eyes, had heard him as he proceeded, with a more and hashing eyes, had heard him as he proceeded, with a more and hashing eyes, had heard him as he proceeded, with a more and and hashing eyes, had heard him as he proceeded, with a more and hashing eyes, had heard him as he proceeded, with a more and him as he proceeded, with a more and hashing eyes, had heard him as he proceeded, with a more and himself.

ANTI-BURGLAR INNURANCE.

A Novel Scheme for Home Pretection Intra-druced in Great Britain.

New York Commercial Advertiser.)

Now every woman will wish that she lived in England, for there they have a burglar insurance company. For a very small premium one can leave his house without all the worry and anxiety usually felt by those who cannot leave any one in charge of their homes when out of town.

Woman Neer Forgetten Place Where She Finds a Good Bargain.

The young woman who is noted for her pretty face and winning ways rather than for her gifts of mind, has just returned from a personally conducted tour of several months in Europe.

a personally conducted tour of several months in Europe.

"And you visited Rome, of course," said a friend on her first moraing call.

"Let me see," mused the young girl deeply, "did we visit Rome? Mamma, did we visit Rome?"

"Why, child, I don't just remember, but it accums to me that we did; let me see—"

"Oh, yes, mamma," broke in the daughter. "I know now, of course we did. Don't you remember Rome? Why, that was were we got those lovely cheap steekings!"

A LAND OF SLUMBER.

The Quaint, Sleepy City of Comayagua in Spanish Honduras.

PEOPLE WHO WON'T BE HURRIED.

Climate and Vegetation That Suggest the Garden of Eden.

A COUNTRY WITH VAST RESOURCES

(CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPARCE.) COMAYAGUA, SPANISH HONDURAS, CENTRAL AMERICA, November 6.-A charming old Spanish town, lying asleep in the warm smalight, surrounded by groves of orange trees, whose odorous blessoms fill the air with a delicate perfume all the year through, for here spring, summer, autumn and winter are merged in one delightful season, and while the ripe fruit glistens like gold among the deep green foliage of one tree its neighbor will be found in full

Years ago this was the most populous and prosperous city in Honduras, having, it is alleged, not less than 30,000 inhabitants, but since the removal of the capital to Teguci-galpa the place has been steadily retrograd-

galpa the place has been steadily retrograding until, at the present time, the population does not exceed 0,000.

The long, narrow streets stretch away in dim perspective, lined with rows of one-story adobe houses, many of them deserted and in ruins. A dozen or more old churches, their roofless wallsovergrown with messand vines, attest the religious ferver of the people in those old, happy days, when the markets were thronged with eager buyers from a hundred interior villages, and the plans echoed the confused sounds of music and barter the jargon of tradesmen and disputing muleteers. Now the grantsquare is forsaken, the vast cathedral with its massive towers and lofty dome seems a magnificent monument erected over a dead and buried community; its glowing white walls rising high above the adjacent buildings are visible for miles, a sure guide to the solitary travaler on the plain. I prefer it as it is to-day, with its drowsy atmosphere, its half-heard sounds, the far-away musical hum of been fitting from flower to flower in the white-walled garden.

Here we lay down life's burdens and rest awhile from the consuming cares that pursue us in more civilized lands. The artificial desires that counterbalance the pleasures of cultured society are here unknown. Senora La Paz's new bounet is a day later than her own from Paris; in fact, Semora Maria does not give Senora La Paz's headgear a thought, and, to tell the truth, Senora La Paz has no bonnet; probably never asw one. She wears a broad-rimmed straw hat, just like her good husband's, and is quite satisfied therewith.

quite satisfied therewith.

Here is no nerve distracting shrick of locomotive, no horrid din of contending cabmen, no roar of traffic—all is peace, quiet,

deep content.

Comayagua is built in the midst of the great plain of the same name, having anclevation of about 2,000 feet above the sea; consequently enjoys a climate that is unsurpassed. The air is wonderfully pure and exhilarating, the scenery grand. The broad valley stretches away for leagues, a natural park, the surface gently undulating, watered by numerous streams; is dotted with clumps of hardy oaks, giant castus, tree ferns, isolated piles of rock overrain with flowering vines. Over all tower the mountains, vast, dim, cleuderowned. These rise on every side to a height of 5,000 to 7,000 feet like griss seatingly guarding the lovely plain—on their

The town is not dead—only sleeping. Some day it will awaken to the grand possibilities within im reach. A railroad will be built from San Pedro, making her vast resources available, the toil and discontent of a higher civilination will overcome the now happy dwellers in this quiet vale, Valu ambitions, eavy, harred, but half convenied all the crift of an "minuated and weekeld all the crift of an "minuated and the content of the content o

